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PROGRESS REPORT TO NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY (CBBL SRP)

July 1993

PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL MECHANISMS INFLUENCING THE DEVELOPMENT AND EVOLUTION OF SEDIMENTARY STRUCTURE

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General Summary of Work During This Period

During March-May 1993, the SUNY group participated in three cruises to Eckernfoerde Bucht. Multiple box cores (4 to 7) were collected from 14 stations. Many of the stations were reoccupied on successive cruises, as shown in Tables 1-3. This work was coordinated closely with boundary-layer measurements by Don Wright and acoustic observations by Darrell Jackson.

The box cores were subsampled for sedimentological, radiochemical and biological studies and to obtain multiple x-ray and microfabric slabs. Some of the biological samples were returned to a shore-based laboratory for incubation experiments. Some of the radiochemical samples were returned immediately to the US. Most of the samples remained in Germany until the end of the spring and will arrive at SUNY Stony Brook during the second week of August.

This report summarizes the field sampling and some initial radiochemical and x-radiographic observations. The bulk of the analyses could not begin until samples were returned to the SUNY laboratories.

Description of Coring Stations

Most of the cores were collected at locations where the APL tower and the VIMS tetrapod were deployed, as shown below.

	BS-1	BS-2	<u>BS-3</u>
APL/VIMS deployment site March-April	stations A,B,C,D,E,F	stations D,F	station D
APL/VIMS deployment site April-May	none	stations N,O,P 94 2	stations N,O

Cruise Number

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In addition, two locations were established at the eastern end of Eckernfoerde Bucht near Mittelgrund, and a location was established at the western end near the navy base. These three sites provided substrates contrasting with the tower/tetrapod deployment sites.

Preliminary field descriptions at the tower/tetrapod sites indicated about one cm of soft brown (10 YR 5/4) mud overlying black (N2-N3) mud. The brown mud was characterized by a dense mat of worm tubes (probably spionid polychaetes) and occasional pectinerid polychaetes. The entire sediment column was pelletized. Shells of bivalves were found throughout the cores, with occasional live specimens. Much of the sand fraction appeared to be shell fragments.

The two locations near Mittelgrund contained glacial sand and pebbles, and had a more diverse benthic community. The location at the west end of Eckernfoerde had a large contribution of terrigeneous debris (sand, twigs, leaves, eel grass).

Sedimentological and Radiochemical Sampling

The radiochemical and sedimentological 6" subsample cores (RS/C samples in Tables 1-3) were extruded and dissected at 1 cm intervals to 15 cm depth in cores. Below 15 cm, sediment from alternate centimeters was saved. During cruises BS-2 and BS-3, entire box cores (20 cm x 30 cm) were extruded at 0.5-cm intervals to 15 cm depth in cores (identified as Th-234 samples in Tables 2 and 3).

The sediment will be divided and examined for both radiochemical and sedimentological properties. Some samples have been dried to calculate porosity, and Th-234 has been measured directly by γ -detection techniques. A preliminary profile is shown in Fig. 1. The apparent limitation of excess Th-234 to the upper centimeter is the reason we changed our sampling scheme to 0.5-cm intervals. Excess Pb-210 also was measured in these samples by γ -detection (Fig. 1). Additional Pb-210 analyses will be done by α -detection techniques. Grain size will be examined by a combination of Sedigraph and settling-column techniques.

Sediment slabs were collected in plexiglas trays (3 cm x 12 cm cross section) for radiographic examination of sedimentary structures. Vertical slabs were obtained with contrasting orientation, and horizontal slabs were obtained at several depths in core. Some of these same slabs will be dissected to examine microfabric. Fig. 2 presents an x-ray positive from the tower/tetrapod site during cruise BS-2. The sedimentary structure reveals physical stratification, with little destruction by mottling. The effects of bioturbation are most obvious in the Mittelgrund cores and least obvious at the west end of Eckernfoerde (near the navy base).

Benthic Biological Sampling

The benthos subsample cores (BIO in Tables 1-3) were divided into 0-2 and 2-10 cm layers, and sieved through a 500 µm sieve. Animals collected on the sieve were then preserved in

glass jars with 4% seawater formaldehyde and rose bengal. Animals will be counted and identified to the lowest taxonomic unit.

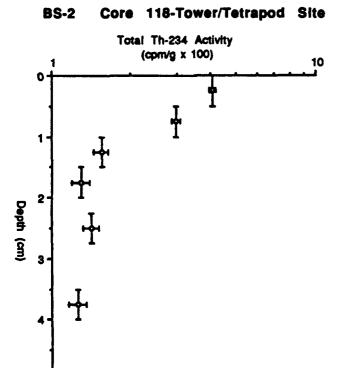
A bioturbation experiment was established to compare vertical and horizontal particle bioturbation rates in a variety of sediments and faunal communities. Six-inch cores were brought to shore and placed in a running seawater system. Cores were drained and vertical plugs of fluorescent marker and mud were added to the center of each core to trace the horizontal component of bioturbation. Then cores were refilled with water and a 50 ml suspension of a second color of fluorescent particles (in seawater) was added to each core. These particles settled overnight onto the sediment surface.

Control cores were broken down during the following two days. There was one control core from each station. Nine to 12 subcores (small syringes) were taken from each control core. Each subcore was vertically sectioned at 7 depth intervals of 0-0.5, 0.5-1, 1-1.5, 1.5-2, 2-3, 3-4, and 4-5 cm. Cores for porosity also were taken and divided in the same manner. Small x-ray slabs were obtained from each core.

Salinity and temperature were monitored during the course of the experiment. Experimental cores were incubated in the running seawater system for approximately 2 weeks, then were broken down in the same manner as the controls. After subcores were taken from the experimental cores, the remaining sediment (~70% of the total) was sieved through a 500-µm sieve, and the animals collected were preserved for later enumeration. Fluorescence from sediment subsamples will be extracted and measured by fluorometry.

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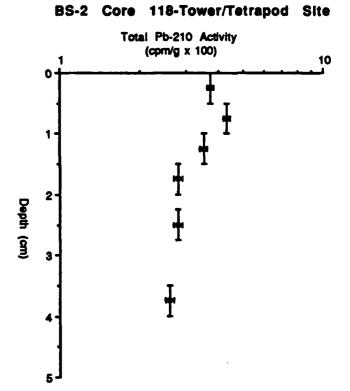


Fig. 1. - Preliminary profiles of total Th-234 and Pb-210. Supported levels must be measured and the system must be calibrated before excess activities can be calculated.

These profiles suggest that excess Th-234 is limited to about 1 cm depth in cores, and that excess Pb-210 extends below 4 cm.

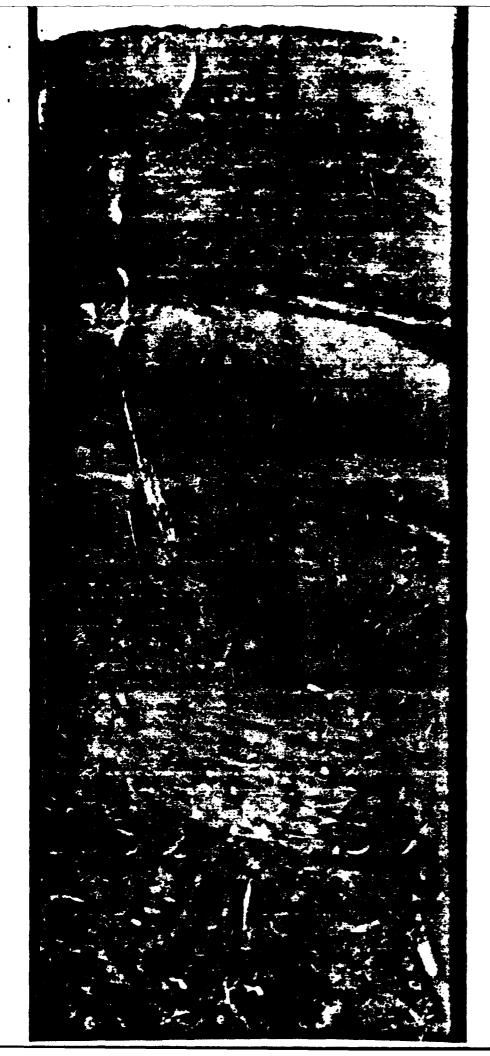


Fig. 2. - X-ray positive from tower/tetrapod station D (119). This is the true scale.

Physical stratification is clear, with little destruction by bioturbation. Disruption by gas is evident below 20 cm.

These slabs are being dissected to examine microfabric.

Table 1. - List of samples collected in Eckernfoerde Bucht during Cruise BS-1 on R/V PLANET

NOTE	TOWER SITE	TOWER SITE	TOWER SITE	S.W. OF TOWER SITE	W. SIDE OF MITTELGRUND	ECKERNFOERDE NAVY BASE	TOWER SITE
SAMPLES	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (1)ARC (3)BIO, (2)VX-R (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (3)HX-R	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (2)VX-R (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (3)HX-R	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (2)VX-R (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (3)HX-R	(1)R/SC, (2)BIO	(3)BIO, (1)VX-R (3)BIO, (1)VX-R, (2)HX-R (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R,	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (2)VX-R (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (3)HX-R	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (2)VX-R (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (3)HX-R
DEPTH (M)	26.0	25.5	26.0	26.0	22.0	21.0	26.0
LONG.	9 58.867 9 58.860 9 58.871 9 58.875	9 59.145 9 59.152 9 59.166 9 59.138	9 58.988 9 58.995 9 58.992 9 58.996	9 58.592	10 01.905 10 01.919 10 01.912 10 01.885	9 52.310 9 52.276 9 52.289 9 52.296	9 58.943 9 58.921 9 58.932 9 58.908
LAT.	54 29.410 54 29.416 54 29.410 54 29.412	54 29.396 54 29.396 54 29.396 54 29.388	54 29.508 54 29.489 54 29.485 54 29.488	54 29.247	54 30.038 54 30.056 54 30.051 54 30.045	54 28.137 54 28.163 54 28.136 54 28.136	54 29.518 54 29.531 54 29.528 54 29.530
TIME	15:00 15:19 15:40 15:57	16:24 16:55 17:30 17:40	8:35 9:00 9:21 9:40	11:00	18:16 18:37 18:44 19:14	8:23 8:44 8:55 ·	9:56 10:08 10:18 10:28
DATE	3/29/93	3/29/93	3/30/93	3/30/93	3/30/93	3/31/93	3/31/93
STATION SUNY/FWG	56/A-2 57/A-3 58/A-4 59/A-5	60/B-1 61/B-2 62/B-3 63/B-4	64/C-1 65/C-2 66/C-3	DIVERT	69/G-1 70/G-2 71/G-3 72/G-4	73/H-1 74/H-2 75/H-3 76/H-4	77/D-1 78/D-2 79/D-3 80/D-4

Table 1. - Continued

STATION SUNY/FWG	DATE	TIME	LAT.	LONG.	DEPTH (M)	SAMPLES	NOTE
1/8-1 2/8-2 3/8-4 4/8-5	3/31/93	10:42 10:50 11:00 11:10	54 29.451 54 29.472 54 29.498 54 29.498	9 59.122 9 59.098 9 59.127 9 59.128	26.0	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (2)VX-R (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (3)HX-R	TOWER SITE
S/F-1 6/F-2 7/F-3	3/31/93	H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H	54 29.378 54 29.414 54 29.427 54 29.426	9 58.975 9 59.028 9 59.043 9 59.021	26.0	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (2)VX-R (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (3)HX-R	TOWER SITE
89/1-1 90/1-2 91/1-3 92/1-4	4/1/93	8:24 8:32 8:48 8:59	54 30.010 54 30.001 54 30.016 54 30.014	10 01.893 10 01.935 10 01.936 10 01.951	24.0	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (2)VX-R (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (3)HX-R	MITTELGRUND SAND/MUD BOUNDARY
3/K	4/1/93	9:26	54 29.298 54 29.506	9 58.991	26.0	(1)R/SC KC	BOX CORE/DIVER CORE COMPARISON
S/M	4/1/93	10:17	54 30.016	9 58.787	28.0	KC	POCK MARK

R/SC - 6" RADIOCHEMISTRY/SEDIMENTOLOGY CORE KEY:

BIO - 3" BIOLOGY CORE

ARC - 3" ARCHIVE CORE

VX-R - VERTICAL X-RAY TRAY (SAMPLED NORMAL TO SEABED)
HX-R - HORIZONTAL X-RAY TRAY (SAMPLED PARALLEL TO SEABED)
BE - 6" BIOTURBATION EXPERIMENT CORE
SC - 10cc SYRINGE CORE

Th-234 - 20x30cm BOX EXTRUDED FOR Th-234 CHEMISTRY

KC - KASTEN CORE

Table 2. - List of samples collected in Eckernfoerde Bucht during Cruise BS-2 on R/V HELMSAND

STATION SUNY/FWG	DATE	TIME	LAT.	LONG.	DEPTH (M)	SAMPLES	NOTE
101/1 102/1 104/1 105/1 105/1	4727/93	13:15 13:30 13:44 14:20 14:20	54 30 00.8 54 30 00.8 54 30 00.8 54 30 00.8 54 30 00.8 54 30 00.6	10 01 59.4 10 01 59.4 10 01 59.4 10 01 59.9 10 02 00.0 10 01 58.6	24.0	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (1)ARC (3)BIO, (2)VX-R (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (3)HX-R Th-234 (2)BE, (3)SC (2)BE, (3)SC	REOCCUPATION
110/H 111/H 112/H 113/H	4728/93	8:45 9:00 9:13 9:45	54 28 00.2 54 28 00.1 54 28 00.1 54 28 00.1 54 28 01.2	9 52 11.2 9 52 10.8 9 52 11.2 9 52 11.0 9 52 10.5	24.0	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (2)HX-R Th-234 (4)BE, (3)BIO, (2)VX-R, (3)SC	REOCCUPATION S0x50CM BOX
115/D 116/D 117/D 118/D 119/D	4/28/93	10:45 11:11 11:20 11:42	54 29 31.8 54 23 31.6 54 23 31.2 54 29 31.0 54 29 30.9	9 58 53.9 9 58 53.6 9 58 53.5 9 58 54.3 9 58 54.3	24.0	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (2)HX-R Th-234 (4)BE, (3)BIO, (2)VX-R, (3)SC	REOCCUPATION 50x50CM BOX
124/N 125/N 126/N 127/N 128/N	4/29/93	16:00 16:15 16:30 16:43 17:00	54 29 44.3 54 29 44.9 54 29 45.0 54 29 45.0 54 29 45.0	9 59 29.6 9 59 28.2 9 59 28.6 9 59 27.8 9 59 28.7	24.0	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, (2)HX-R Th-234 (4)BE, (3)BIO, (2)VX-R, (3)SC	NEW TOWER 50x50CM BOX
139/O 140/O 141/O 142/O 143/O	4/29/93	9:58 10:07 10:19 10:45 11:01	54 29 36.4 54 29 36.5 54 29 36.5 54 29 36.7 54 29 36.7	9 59 19.4 9 59 19.3 9 59 18.9 9 59 19.7 9 59 19.2	~	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, Th-234 (3)BE, (3)BIO, (1)VX-R,	NEW TOWER

Table 2. - Continued

LES NOTE	(3)BIO, (1)VX-R MITTELGRUND (2)BE, (3)SC (1)BE, (1)R/SC	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO REOCCUPATION (3)BIO, (1)ARC (1)R/SC, (1)VX-R, 50x50CM BOX (4)BE, (3)BC, (1)VX-R, 50x50CM BOX (3)SC
SAMPLES	(3)BIO, 1 (2)BE, (3 (1)BE, (4)	(1)R/SC, (3)BIO, (1)R/SC, (4)BE, (5)
DEPTH (M)	20.0	~
LONG.	10 01 54.2 10 01 54.0 10 01 54.3	9 58 49.4 9 58 49.8 9 58 48.9 9 58 43.4
LAT.	\$4 30 03.9 \$4 30 04.4 \$4 30 04.4	54 29 28.9 54 29 28.9 54 29 28.8 54 29 28.8
TIME	12:41 13:32 13:52	14:47 14:58 15:08 15:25
DATE	4729/93	4729/93
STATION SUNY/FWG	148/G 146/G 147/G	148/F 149/F 150/F 151/F

R/SC - 6" RADIOCHEMISTRY/SEDIMENTOLOGY CORE BIO - 3" BIOLOGY CORE KEY:

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BE. - 6" BIOTURBATION EXPERIMENT CORE

SC - 10cc SYRINGE CORE Th-234 - 20x30cm BOX EXTRUDED FOR Th-234 CHEMISTRY

KC - KASTEN CORE

Table 3. - Continued

54 28 01.6 9 52 11.6		
0000	54 30 2.25 10 01 42.1 54 30 3.10 10 01 40.9 54 30 2.61 10 01 40.6 54 30 3.18 10 01 40.7	54 30 2.25 54 30 3.10 54 30 2.61 54 30 3.18

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